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To: <paulbaker@utah.gov>
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Subject: Keep tar sands mining out of Utah

*Incoming
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TASK 3487*

ACTION NEEDED NOW!
Keep tar sands mining out of Utah

ACTION ALERT!

Because of it's broadly effective lands base and environmentally destructive extraction process, the ongoing tar sands boom in the Athabasca region of Alberta Canada has been called an "environmental crime of enormous proportions." Now, a Canadian based company wants to bring these same toxic mining operations to Utah. Earth Energy Resources, Inc. (EER), a Canadian based mining company wants to mine for tar sands in Uintah and Grand Counties East Tavaputs Plateau. EER has requested a permit to begin mining operations from the Utah Division of Oil Gas and Mining (DOGM). EER's corporate website provides that it's "Utah oil sands project contains an estimated 200 million barrels recoverable from it's 7,835 acre state leases."

The EER website also provides that, if the permit is issued, it would "be the first oil sands production permit to be granted in the United States." While, do to the questions marketability and environmental impacts of oil shale and tar sands development, in other states such as Colorado and Wyoming, companies are taking a more cautious approach to development. Utah tar sands, in fact, are much less economically feasible to extract than those being taken from the boreal rainforest in Alberta, Canada primarily because deposits in Utah are not water soluble, and they do not occur in thick layers. According to Randy Udall with the Community Office for Resource Efficiency in Carbondale, Colorado, therefore it "would be easier to produce oil by digging up the asphalt on I 70 between Grand Junction and Green River."

What you can do:

Please send written comments to:

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